



IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD WITHIN YOU?

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Bible references from 1611 King James Version.

Here are some questions about the relationship of God to Man, and the nature of our destiny:

1. Does the spirit presence of God actually indwell the mind of humans?
2. Why, and to what end?
3. What are the conditions upon which God's spirit indwells the mind of man?
4. Is that spirit of God guiding man in the right direction?
5. Does the fact of an indwelling Spirit mean God has a close relationship with man, even though man might not be aware of it?
6. What could be closer in relationship than the Spirit of God actually being inside a person?
7. Does man have a divine destiny of union with God?

I will answer those questions and more in this article.

BIBLICAL PROOF OF THE INDWELLING SPIRIT

I believe it is obvious from the below bible passages by prophets, Jesus, John, Paul, and Jesus' brother James that the Spirit of God himself does indwell people, without requiring further conditions.

Job:32:8: But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Job:32:18: For I am full of matter, the spirit within me constraineth me.

Isa:63:10-11: But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him?

Eze:37:14: And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

*Lu:17:20-21: And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, **The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.***

*Mt:10:20: **For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.***

*Job:17:21-23: **That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: : I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.***

*Ro:8:9-11: **But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.: But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.***

*1Co:3:16-17: **Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.***

*1Co:6:19: **What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?***

*2Co:6:16: **And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.***

*Ga:2:20: **I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.***

*Jas:4:5-7: **Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy (yearns jealously)?***

*1Jo:3:24: **And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.***

*1Jo:4:12-15: **No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.***

Re:21:3: And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

WHAT ABOUT THE ATONEMENT DOCTRINE?

The "Atonement Doctrine" stipulates the need to believe Jesus' death was a human blood sacrifice to atone for man's sin in order than man might be able to have a relationship with God. Proponents of the Atonement Doctrine assert that if a person does not accept the doctrine on faith, the person will burn in hell forever, and not be allowed to go to Heaven or be with God.

These passages show that there is no merit to the atonement doctrine, for God and man already have a relationship such as what the atonement doctrine offers. They show that

1. God (the Father in particular) already indwells man's mind.
2. The Father-Within loves humans.
3. The Father-Within has a close relationship.
4. The Father-Within yearns for man to become aware of his presence and become devoted to doing his will.
5. The Father-Within is constantly trying to guide man in the right direction toward an eternal destiny.

PURPOSE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD - TO BE LIKE HIM

I can think of only one reason for such an intimate union between God and man, and that is for man and God somehow to form an even closer bond - to become LIKE God by being devoted to doing his will. To me, it is obvious that there are two phases of the relationship:

1. **Temporary.** This is the relationship we have now, in which most people really have no intimate knowledge of God's plans and direction for their lives. All we can do in this phase is to try to discern his will, be loyal to truth, beauty, and goodness, and show his nature to others through love, mercy, and ministry.
2. **Permanent.** This is the relationship of the future which few humans attain while on this earth. In it, the Spirit of the Father-Within becomes fused with the human personality by an act of conscious will by both, and with proper preparation by the human. Most of us are not properly prepared for most of us do not live in consummate devotion to doing the Father's will, and we allow many other things to come between us. I know from biblical records of three people who have attained this state: Enoch, Elijah, and Jesus. None of the apostles attained it, particularly not the apostle Paul. Jesus' case was unusual because of his combined divine and human nature. However, Enoch and Elijah simply escaped from the earth without bothering with the process of the growing old and dying.

WHEN YOU COMMIT TO A GOD-LIKE LIFE: FLASH-OFF

Ge:5:22-24: And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

2Ki:2:11: And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Elisha and 50 seminary students witnessed the terrestrial escape of Elijah. In reality, the body disintegrated, and the personality, fused with the Spirit of the Father-Within, went to Heaven. Most likely the same thing happened to Enoch, but the hand-me-down story lost details over the thousands of years since then.

Basically, such a "flash-off" is in store for all humans who so cultivate the relationship with the Father as to have no further need for human existence. According to Jesus:

M't:7:21: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

WHAT IS THE SOUL?

It is obvious from the comments of Jesus and others before him that there is one existential deity, God the Father, who is the Father of all, even though he is co-eternal with the Eternal Son and Infinite Spirit. The Father, Son, and Spirit never leave their eternal abode in Paradise at the center of infinity, for their presence there is required to uphold the gravity and other energy circuits of the universe of universes. Wherefore do they send their constituent delegates to indwell the minds of humans and rule in the kingdoms of men.

Thus, it could be said that the individual Spirit-Within presences discussed in the above passages are fragments or individuated elements of the Father in Heaven, for they dwell not in Heaven, but in the minds of human beings.

Apparently their job is to plan our eternal destiny, and meanwhile to attempt to break through the various barriers that prevent open and knowing communication in the human mind with the human personality. I believe another task that spirit performs is to translate the spiritually worthy experiences of the human into a "soul", the vehicle for personality survival.

The soul is not the Spirit of the Father, it is not the human personality, and it is not the mind. It is

something unique to the individual, the spiritual counterpart of the human being that survives material death.

Mt:22:37: Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

In the above passage, "thy" refers to the human personality (the identity, or person), "heart" refers to the moral will of the person, mind refers to mind, and soul refers to the vehicle of personality survival formed of the experiences of spiritual worth in the person's life.

WHO AM I? WHAT IS PERSONALITY?

It is a rare person who has never pondered the question "Who am I?" The actual entity referred to by the term "I" is absolutely unique and distinguishable from all other entities, It is the "personality".

It is difficult to define personality. It appears to be a gift of the Heavenly Father, and it comes to be associated with the human mind and body at or around the time of one's birth. It is the "animus" that becomes the unique identity of the human being. While it somewhat defies definition, it does have obvious characteristics.

1. Self-consciousness - awareness of being aware.
2. Ability to make moral decisions - to decide between right and wrong and sincerely act with moral will.
3. Ability knowingly to communicate thoughts, ideas, and ideals with another personality.
4. Ability to love - to desire to do good to others.
5. Ability to know God and crave to be like him.
6. Personality is one's immutable and unique identity.

The personality is not the mind, but without mind there can be no personality.

WHAT IS THE MIND AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH PERSONALITY?

The mind is a mechanism for storing, viewing, and analyzing images and other information, as well as to harbor and exhibit instincts of intuition, understanding, courage, knowledge, counsel, wisdom, and worship. These "instincts" could themselves be considered manifestations of spirit, represent diety's contact with and interface to the animal organism.

Animals of orders lower than humans do not have instincts of wisdom and worship. That is why their minds are never hosts to personality, and it is also why they do not survive material death.

The personality, in association with a body and mind, evaluates facts, derives meanings, recognizes values, experiences truths, and makes associated moral decisions.

The personality grows spiritually in seeking to know and become like God by making an endless succession of moral decisions and following those decisions with sincere and corresponding action.

It is the personality that commits to "doing God's will." In the absence of any other succinct definition, the standard for doing God's will can be seen as the loyal devotion to and pursuit of the qualities truth, beauty, and goodness through decisive acts of love, mercy, and ministry.

THE GOAL OF MAN'S PERSONALITY - BEING YOUR SOUL

It should be easy to conjecture from the foregoing that the goal of a personality is to make all experiences have spiritual value. In other words, your goal is to "Become" your soul. That is what Jesus meant when he said

Mt:5:48: Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Lu:6:36: Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Lu:12:40: Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

Mt:12:50: For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Mt:7:21: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Job:6:40: And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Absolute perfection is not possible for human beings, but relative perfection is. Jesus, on orders from the Father, encouraged his followers to be as perfect here on earth as the Father is in Heaven. Since inherent capacities cannot be exceeded, every human has some perfection boundary. To the extent our individual boundaries allow, we can all be relatively perfect.

Become perfect is an evolutionary process. It takes trial and error, time, energy, and sincere devotion to doing the Father's will. Even if we humans are not so **devoted to the Father's** will that we, during our short lives on earth, become perfect and fuse our personalities with his Spirit-Within, we will still be resurrected and go to Heaven if we embrace our Sonship with God on faith.

That message was the substance of the gospel Jesus taught throughout his four-year public

ministry. Even if we do not accomplish sufficient spiritual growth here on earth, we can continue it later. Among Heaven's many purposes is to allow us to progress in our spiritual growth so that we can fuse with the Father's Spirit-Within, and someday pass the approval of Jesus and be sent to stand directly in the presence of the Father himself.

So, we can either fuse with him here, or dawdle until later. Obviously, Jesus wanted everyone to wake up and do it immediately. Otherwise he would not have taught so insistently, persistently, and encouragingly.

Jesus sincerely wanted all human beings to come to know him as he knew the Father, and then to be so encouraged as to come to know the Father personally. At the end of his public ministry, Jesus asked the Father to make his apostles one with each other and with him, just as the Father and he were one. This spiritual "one-ness" is an apparent goal for all humans.

Job:17:20-23: Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

THE DESTINY OF MAN

All of this leads to the glaring conclusion that we humans must and do have a divine destiny. The process of becoming perfect is the process of becoming like God. When we so consummately desire to be like God and to do his will, then our personalities can fuse with that spirit fragment of the Father who indwells our minds. Through that fusion we become divine in character, and the Father gains personality expression through us as individuals.

Most likely the fusion process endows us with memories that Spirit fragment of the Father might have had before indwelling our minds. There is a good chance that the indwelling spirit might have previously indwelt the mind of a human who did not survive mortal death. Even those beings had experiences of spiritual value to lend to our own, once we come to know God.

The fusion of man with God allows us to be forever united as one, throughout all the limitlessness of time and space and all the grand adventures in the unknown of future eternity. Obviously, if we grow to perfection as Jesus commanded, we will become more and more like God. As we grow to be more like him, we become more nearly divine and more trustworthy. As we become more trustworthy, we are endowed with more power, which we use to implement the Father's will, wherever we be.

With such growth potential ahead of us, we can only conjecture as to the missions with which we will be entrusted during our heavenly careers. And there is no question that some day we will stand in the presence of the Father himself, if we are loyal to our trust.

Job:14:6: Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Maybe Jesus was also making a point about a divine destiny for loyal humans when he asked:

*Job:10:34: Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, **Ye are gods?***

In answer to the lead question that titles this discussion, YES, most definitely, the Spirit of God is within me.

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